

**PLAIN
HARDWARE**
Home & Garden

(509) 763-3836

PLAIN TALK

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19th at 11 am
Lake Wenatchee
Recreation Club
Easter egg hunts for all
ages—infant to adult.
Lots of fun, lots of prizes!
Free refreshments.
Sponsored by the Lake
Wenatchee Recreation Club.



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Plain Community Church
Sunday, April 20
8:30 am and 11 am

FLOWERS ARRIVE AT PLAIN HARDWARE

Friday, April 25th
Get ready for gorgeous perennials, herbs
and hardy annuals! Tender
annuals, vegetable starts and
hanging baskets will be arriv-
ing mid-May or sooner if
Spring comes early this year.



*Remember, we only sell
perennials that can survive
our cold winters. Take the guesswork out
of your plant shopping and pick out your
favorites at Plain Hardware!*

MOCHA FOR MOM ON MOTHER'S DAY

Plain Hardware
Sunday, May 11th
If you're a Mom come
in for a **FREE**
12 oz Latte, Mocha,
Italian Soda or Hot
Cocoa on Mother's Day. Just show us a
picture of your cute kids or grandkids to
receive your free drink!
Our gift to you for all you do! Enjoy!



LEAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST

May 9th to 11th
Celebrate Spring and the International
Migratory Bird Day!
Activities offered include bird walks on
Blackbird Island, bird
watching by boat on Fish
Lake, tours of local refor-
estation projects, wild-
flower and geology walks



as well as music and art events. For
further information, call 548-5807.

Espresso—Our Quest for the Perfect Cup of Coffee



How hard can it be to make a good cup
of coffee? Buy an espresso machine,
turn it on, press a few buttons and there
you go. Right? Ha! That's what you do if
you want to make a bad cup of coffee.
When it comes to being a good barista
there's a little bit of science involved—and
a whole lot of love.

Rob and I began our journey into Latte
Land by attending the Coffee Fest Trade
Show in Seattle last November. Eight hours
and seven shots of espresso later (yes, I
did end up with a headache, but I sure
could walk fast!), we had picked out an
espresso machine, taste tested a ton of cof-
fee and realized that we had a lot to learn
if we wanted to offer our customers great
espresso drinks.

After much debate, we finally settled on
Tully's coffee out of Seattle. Why? Their
coffee tastes great and they have an inten-
sive barista training program. Before we
sold even one cup of coffee, we all had to
go through Tully's 3-hour training program.
Wow. Who would have guessed it could be
so complex. You need the perfect grind,
the perfect pour (20-25 seconds), the per-

fect crema, the perfect milk temperature,
the perfect foaming technique and the per-
fect recipes or your espresso drink will not
be very tasty.

If you've ever had a latte that tasted bit-
ter or burned, it's because the barista has
either not been trained well, or doesn't
take pride in making espresso drinks.
There is a lot to know and you have to fol-
low the procedure exactly or you will not
produce a quality cup of coffee. We at
Plain Hardware are determined to be the
best and we have practiced and practiced
and practiced! Luckily its fun to make
espresso drinks and even more fun to
order them knowing you are going to get a
good drink every time.

Our espresso bar has been going really
well and we expect that we will just get
busier and busier. But, there are no guaran-
tees when you start a new venture.
However, even with all this uncertainty, there
are a couple things we do know for sure.
Rob and I have become the supreme coffee
snobs of all time and Plain Hardware's baris-
tas make a darn good cup of coffee!



"Now at Plain Hardware—a great cup of coffee!"

Back Row: *Teresa Gonder, Caren Karnofski, Sarah Butler,
Joylyn Marcellus, Kelly McDaniels, Jerry Franklin, Jody Allen, Patty Drinnin*
Front Row: *Rob Whitten, Jake Whitten, Gwen Whitten, Katie Whitten*

New Contractor & Home Builder Service Counter

We will be setting up a new service counter for contractors and homebuilders. It will increase the speed that we can service our customers and help them get back to work. The service counter will be located between the plumbing department and the "nail" room. This increasingly important segment of our business has continued to grow, and we continue to expand and improve our ability to offer great service, quality, and competitive pricing. The continued rapid growth we have seen in our lumberyard is testimony to our ability to satisfy our customers, compete well with other yards, and keep builders coming back for more. And it's only at Plain Hardware that you can get a mocha or latte with your studs!

More Great Giftware Coming to Plain Hardware's The Country Porch

The Country Porch has a reputation for great giftware, and Gwen works hard to keep it that way. She just returned from two major product shows. In early February, we both attended the Outdoor Retailer show in Salt Lake City. I was in heaven, checking out all the cool mountain climbing gear and technical clothing, while Gwen had to do all the hard work of finding new products that fit into our store. Gwen was very successful, and we are looking forward to receiving all the

new apparel and gift items that she ordered. In late February, Gwen and Caren flew to California and attended the San Francisco Gift Show. It sounds like fun, but it is also a ton of work and somewhat stressful. Imagine, buying product on the spot for delivery the rest of the year. This is an international show, and the size of it is mind-boggling. Lots and lots of walking. As a guy, I'd never make it out alive. But, a credit to her gender, Gwen's a born shopper!

Espresso Bar and Snowshoe/Ski Rentals a Success

Last December we added an espresso bar and ski and snowshoe rentals to the mix and they've definitely made a positive impact on the store. We were looking to add products that would keep us busy in our traditionally slow months of January and February, and we've hit the mark. We saw a substantial increase in total sales, and the bulk of it has been driven by these new products. But more importantly, we love renting equipment and making espresso. It's fun, the customers are fun, and it adds up to a great time for everyone.



Is Your Business Listed In Our Service Directory?

If you've got a business you'd like to promote in the Plain & Lake Wenatchee areas, the Plain Talk Newsletter is a great place to start. Published quarterly (December 1st, March 1st, June 1st, September 1st), the Plain Talk Newsletter is bulk mailed to all the mailbox holders (approx. 1000 households) in the following areas - Chumstick Highway, Plain, Ponderosa, Chiwawa Loop Road, Lake Wenatchee and the east side of Stevens Pass. The newsletter is also mailed to approximately 1000 people who do not have mailboxes in the areas listed above. Many of them are local vacation home and property owners. Approximately 500 newsletters are also handed out each quarter to customers who visit Plain Hardware and other local businesses.

For further information, please call Gwen Whitten at 509-763-3011. Please note that ad space must be reserved up to a month in advance of the publish date and is first come first served.



Bike Rentals at Plain Hardware!

Unwind from the fast pace of life with a gentle ride down River Road. Conquer your first real mountain bike ride on Natapoc Ridge. Pump up the adrenaline as you scream down the twisting single track on Minnow Ridge. These adventures and many more await you in the Plain and Lake Wenatchee recreation areas. Here are some of our favorite trails:

River Road

Starting from Plain Hardware, this paved route crosses the old highway bridge across the Wenatchee River (now closed to motorized vehicles), and then gently winds down River Road past turn of the century barns. This is a great ride for our cherry red tandem!

Natapoc Ridge to Pobst Canyon

A fun off the pavement ride that starts in Plain. Much of this ride is on old gated off logging roads, with nice views into the Plain Valley. It starts with a short climb, then gently traverses and descends to the valley floor.

Minnow Ridge

Located off the Chiwawa River Road, this ride starts with a fairly short uphill stint, and then flies down a twisty single track. Lots of super fast downhill action for the small uphill investment. One of our favorite rides!

Call 509-763-3836 for bike reservations and rental rates. Happy riding!

PLAIN HARDWARE Home & Garden

Open Monday through Friday

7:15 am to 5:30 pm

Saturday 8 am to 5:30 pm

Sunday 9 am to 3 pm

Phone: 509-763-3836

Fax: 509-763-2204

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Contact us via e-mail at
plainhardware@hotmail.com

Compost Totes For Sale

Great for gardens, flower beds
and new lawn prep.

1,000 lbs. — \$49.95

DELIVERY AVAILABLE



ED HUME FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS

Why does Plain Hardware carry this brand?

- Best varieties for short growing seasons.
- Large selection - over 165 varieties in stock now.
- Highest germination rates available - they exceed industry standards.
- Packaged from the current growing season harvest only.
- Lower priced than most other seed companies and usually contain more seed.

Stop by and start planning your garden today!



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Gardening Products
Arriving Soon:

MID-APRIL

PEAT MOSS

CHICKEN MANURE

STEER MANURE

PELLETIZED FISH FERTILIZER

COMPOST

(50# bags and 1000 lb. Totes)

LIME

BEAUTY BARK

BARK MULCH

GRASS SEED

POTTING SOIL

APRIL 25

PERENNIALS • HERBS • PANSIES

ONION SETS

SEED POTATOES

MID-MAY

ANNUALS & HANGING BASKETS

VEGETABLE STARTS



NORTHWEST FOREST PASS INFORMATION



What is it? The Northwest Forest Pass is a regional pass good at most USDA Forest Service fee sites throughout Washington and Oregon, as well as most fee sites in the

North Cascades National Park. All individuals recreating in the forest who park a motorized vehicle (including motorcycles) in signed fee areas will need to purchase a pass.

Cost: \$5 per day or \$30 per season

Where to purchase: Plain Hardware and all USDA Forest Service offices.

Employee Profile



Jake and Katie Whitten

Plain Hardware's youngest

employees Jake Whitten (age 9) and Katie Whitten (age 6) have a lot to say about working at Plain Hardware. Unlike our other employees, they aren't shy about telling it like it is. So, their comments are not always positive. For example ... Although Katie's favorite task is to pick up the nails in the nail room with the giant magnet, she says she hates to "tidy up" the toy aisle "because it is boring." Jake loves to run the cash register, but groans when he has to take out the garbage "because a lot of the time it stinks" he says.

When I asked Jake and Katie why they are glad we own Plain Hardware, Jake said "I like that we own the store because I get to do stuff that other kids don't get to do, like see my Dad really often. And he teaches me stuff like how to wax skis." Katie's answer hit the nail right on the head ... "I like it that we own the hardware store because if we didn't we wouldn't have any money."

Jake and Katie are Plain Hardware's dedicated newsletter labelers and brutally honest toy aisle critiques. They usually work on Saturday mornings and occasionally work on special projects such as folding dozens of Life is Good tee shirts and pricing plumbing parts.

Jake keeps busy outside of work attending 3rd grade at Osborn Elementary. He likes soccer, baseball, alpine skiing, mountain bike riding, the New York Yankees and reading the Hardy Boys books. Jake's plans for the future include attending college and playing Major League baseball or working for his Dad at Plain Hardware.

Katie attends 1st grade at Osborn Elementary and spends her spare time alpine skiing, playing soccer, doing art projects, taking ballet class, attending Girl Scouts, baking cookies and collecting bunny rabbits. Katie says, "When I'm all grown up, I want to be an artist or just a plain ol' worker." Hmmmm...



Fight the Bite!

Spring has sprung. That means hiking, biking and ... unfortunately MOSQUITOES! Last Spring we had the worst mosquito infestation in years. This year we are getting serious! In addition to stocking Deet drenched mosquito repellent and citronella candles we have decided to stand united against those pesky little buggers. We mean business, so we've come up with a tee shirt that says it all...

**Lake Wenatchee —
Fight the Bite!
If You Spot'em, Swat'em!**

Who knows, maybe it will be just enough to convince the nasty critters to head to Lake Chelan. And if not, at least we will look cool while we are being eaten alive.

P.S. We will have our "Lake Wenatchee Blood Donor" tee shirts again this Spring—arriving in April.

We Make Keys



We sell propane!

Low Down on the “Life is Good” Skivvies

BY JOE BOYD
OFFICIAL PLAIN HARDWARE
PRODUCT TESTER

After certain uninformed editorial comments about “packaging” in my last Plain Talk column (Winter 2002), I felt compelled to actually test the Life Is Good button fly boxer briefs. I am, however, a little uneasy discussing such intimate apparel, but honor must prevail.

Even before the Life Is Good product, I have been a long time fan of boxer briefs. They are either the best of both worlds or the optimum compromise for an indecisive man; I am not really sure which one. Nevertheless, there are a couple of differentiating features with the Life Is Good undergarment.

The Life Is Good brand does sport a wider waistband with the Life is Good logo and the smiling face of Jake repeat-

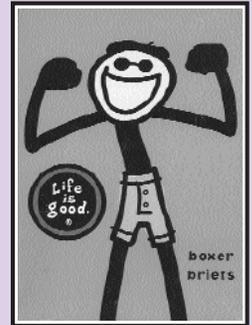
edly emblazoned along the band. In my case, with the extra large waist size, they seem to go on and on forever! This waistband is also higher than most of my other shorts, which leads me to believe that they are designed to be worn by people who like the low riding pants that make the top of your drawers a part of your external fashion statement. I suspect they are common with snow and skate boarders whose pants seem to miraculously levitate six inches below their waists. My infinitely repetitive band, on the other hand, is hidden beneath my pants and a belt.

These Life Is Good shorts are made of the same soft cotton that they use with their shirts so they are extremely comfortable to wear. You should be careful not to examine the softness of these shorts in public too often though.

Finally, I was relieved to discover that, unlike the Life Is Good shirts, the manu-

facturers had the good taste not to include a fortune stitched into the boxers. That would just be too weird. I'm just hoping Rob doesn't get too attached to these things and decide to offer the same “wear them unwashed for seven days and if they are not as fresh on the eighth day, I'll give you your money back” guarantee that he offers with the SmartWool socks.

Happily, until Rob makes such a guarantee, you can find your very own pair of these special boxer briefs at The Country Porch at Plain Hardware. Oh, did I mention that I bought the extra large shorts?



Historical Highlight

THE FOX FARM VACATION RENTAL

Brand new is beautiful, but sometimes it's fun to stay somewhere with a past...

In July of last year, the ten acres that borders Jody and Steve Allen's property came up for sale. The acreage came with a 1916 farmhouse, barn and garage. Even though the farmhouse had no hot water, no bathroom, a poor foundation and a well that would go dry in the Fall, they thought it would make a delightful vacation rental, decided to go for it, and purchased the property.



Jody and Steve Allen with their son Jake on the front porch of The Fox Farm in Plain.

“The sale was completed August 1st and by the 15th, the house was in the air ready for a foundation. Next we had to deal with the 20' hand dug well. So, we trenched a 600' line to an existing well, and no—not by hand! The house only had cold water to the kitchen sink and no bathroom. By the time we were done with this project, we had added a 13' x 16' addition that made room for a bathroom and loft,” says Jody.

Once the nitty gritty work was completed, they set to work with friend Amy Cram decorating the farmhouse. Luckily, the existing 1930's era wallpaper and flooring were still in good shape. With a few coats of paint, fun linens, clever decorating and antiques found on the property, they have turned an old farmhouse into a charming, cozy, friendly get-away. The Allen's affectionately call it “The Fox Farm.”

So, why do Jody and Steve call their farmhouse The Fox Farm? During the 1920's the property was owned by Louis Bock and used to raise silver foxes for their fur. Old timers here in the Plain Valley remember the foxes looked like a bunch of gray rocks in their pens until the caretaker would whistle and they would all stand up. The fur was mainly sold to railroad workers for warmth. They eventually went out of business in the late 1920's. The only visual evidence of the fox farm's existence is the red barn that was used as the tannery, and old chicken wire and posts from the original fox pens. “A friend of mine gave me a silver fox stole that was her grandmother's. Her grandmother lived in Leavenworth until about 1935. We often wonder if the fur came from our place,” says Steve.

As of December 24, 2002, The Fox Farm has been open as a vacation rental. It is located in Plain just off the Beaver Valley Highway, approximately 3 miles from Plain Hardware. It will sleep up to 5 people comfortably. Please call Jody or Steve at (509) 763-3053 for rates or for further information.

SPRING Snowshoeing—Great till Early May!

Looking for a great activity to bridge the gap between Winter and Summer? Try Spring snowshoeing. Even with this year's light snow pack, we have great snowshoeing, and it should last into early May. Just imagine, the soft Spring sunshine warming your skin as you easily walk across the firm snow pack of Winter. Today's snowshoes offer unmatched grip in hard and icy conditions, are lightweight, and durable. With their slim design, you won't end up walking like a trail-weary cow-herder at the end of a long cattle drive. Here are some of our favorite places to snowshoe in the Spring:

White River Falls

About eight miles past the end of Lake Wenatchee, on the White River Road (Road # 6400), is the jumping off spot for this snowshoe trip. The county plows the road up to Tall Timbers Ranch. Park here, and continue up the road to White River Falls. While the grade is very easy, it is longer at around seven miles round trip. The falls are a favorite spot of mine, whether winter or summer. See Green Trails map #145 (Lake Wenatchee)

Twin Lakes

This trip has the same driving approach as the White River Falls trip. Watch for the trailhead sign on the right hand side of the road just before you reach Tall Timbers Ranch. At 8.4 miles round trip, with 800 feet of elevation gain, this trip is for advanced snowshoers with backcountry experience. Check backcountry avalanche conditions before beginning this hike. See Green Trails map #145 (Lake Wenatchee).



The Whitten family just back from a snowshoe trip in Plain. Katie Whitten, Rae Whitten, Barb Boyd, Joe Boyd, Gwen Whitten and Jake Whitten. Photo by Rob Whitten

Hidden Lake

Located on the south shore of Lake Wenatchee, Hidden Lake is a great primer for snowshoe beginners. It has a very gentle approach and can be completed in one and a half to two hours. The payoff is great – an incredibly picturesque alpine lake that is accessible to even beginners and children. See Green Trails map # 145 (Lake Wenatchee).

Snowshoe Rentals at PLAIN HARDWARE

RATES	Day	1/2 Day (after 1:30 pm)
Adult and youth	\$12	\$8

A guided beginner's snowshoe tour meets every Saturday at 10 am at Plain Hardware. It is free with a snowshoe rental. Advance reservation is required. Our guide, Greg Clark, will teach you the basics of snowshoeing and lead a short trip in the local area. You would be back to Plain Hardware around noon. There is a limit of 10 people per trip, so call now and get your spot reserved.

Call Plain Hardware at 509-763-3836 or e-mail us at plainhardware@hotmail.com to make reservations or for more information.

**PLAIN HARDWARE is
open Sundays 9 am to 3 pm**

BRACELET BONANZA AT THE COUNTRY PORCH

Ok, I admit it. I have a bracelet fetish. And what's even worse, Caren my gift buying assistant has one too. So, you can always plan on finding the coolest, hippest bracelets at The Country Porch. We've got "crystal" and silver stretchies, handmade beaded bracelets (necklaces and anklets, too) by

local Cindy Elliot, trendy photo bracelets, fun chunky creatively beaded bracelets and Far-Fetched silver i.d. bracelets. And who knows what else we will have come late Spring! We are always on a mad hunt for cool jewelry. So check our jewelry area often, we are always adding something new!

Plain's Perry Solmonson to run the 2003 Iditarod

Perry Solmonson, owner of Alaska Dreamin' Sled Dog Company, is giving the Iditarod another shot. After a rocky time in the 2002 Iditarod, when 7 of his female dogs went into heat at the same time, Perry feels good about his team for this year's race. With his female dogs now spayed, he knows he won't face that hurdle this year.

The weather in Alaska has been warmer and wetter than normal, and this has forced a major route change. Portions of the traditional trail have been under water, and snow coverage is light to non-existent. For the first time ever, the start has been moved from the warm coastal town of Wasilla, over the Alaskan Range, and deep into the interior at Fairbanks. Weather conditions are much better there. The "ceremonial" start will still take place on March 1st in Anchorage, but from there, the teams



will be flown to Fairbanks, and the real racing will begin on March 3rd. The revised course will add close to 100 miles on the already 1100-mile race. You can track Perry's progress on the Internet at www.iditarod.com, or at his web site www.alaskadreamin.com. Good luck Perry!

WE LOVE BURT!

I keep telling you that we love Burt, but you may wonder what exactly do we love about him? I decided to ask my co-workers at Plain Hardware about their favorite Burt's Bees products. I really thought it would be a boring story, with the same answer from everyone - lip balm, lip balm, lip balm. But instead I got all kinds of answers. I guess we love more about Burt than I thought!

"What a hard question. I love everything. I guess my top choice though is the Beeswax Lip Balm—I couldn't live without it! But, I also use the Marshmallow Vanishing Creme. I love that stuff. And I really like the Baby Bee Body Lotion because it has a really nice scent."

—Caren Karnofski

"The Beeswax Lip Balm by far is my favorite because it makes my lips feel so-o-o-o good!"

—Patty Drinnin

"I have two favorite Burt's Bees products. I use the Carrot Day Creme because it



helps soothe my skin when I've been out in the sun. It does an excellent job! I also like the Doctor Burt's Res-Q Ointment because it helps stop the itch of mosquito bites."

—Jody Allen

"I use the Beeswax Lip Balm and the Hand Salve—good stuff!"

—Jerry Franklin

"I like the Sunscreen Lip Balm for when I am doing activities outside. It works so well even my three kids carry it with them."

—Teresa Gonder

"I've got several favorite products. I love the Hand Salve, of course. I also like the Beeswax & Royal Jelly Eye Cream. My face gets so dry and this eye cream is the only stuff I have found that doesn't irritate my skin. And I always keep the Head-to-Toe Starter Kit in the glove box of my car. It

WE LOVE BURT!

has Beeswax Lip Balm, Hand Salve, Carrot Body Lotion, Lemon Butter Cuticle Cream and a bunch of other stuff. It is the perfect emergency kit! I love it."

—Joylyn Marcellus

"The Hand Salve that comes in a tin is my favorite. It really works."

—Rob Whitten

So, what do I love about Burt? I love the Lemon Butter Cuticle Cream. It smells great and it heals hangnails practically overnight. I am so bummed if I forget it when I am traveling. And of course I love the Beeswax Lip Balm. My lips get chapped really easily, so I keep a tube in my purse, in my car, in my desk drawer and in my night stand. I hate to be without it!

So, there you have it. Now you know why we all love Burt so much. If you haven't tried any of the Burt's Bees products or are simply stuck in a rut with the Beeswax Lip Balm, branch out! Burt has a lot to offer!

Espresso Ignorant?

So, you don't know the difference between a Cappuccino and a Breve? Don't fret. We've got a cheat sheet for you. Study this and you can wow your coffee connoisseur friends even if you've never ventured beyond a Mocha.

Espresso Drink Descriptions

Latte (*Law-tay*) Espresso and steamed milk, topped with 1/2" of foam. Many add a flavored syrup.

Latte Macchiato (*Law-tay Mock-e-ab-toe*) Steamed milk with the espresso poured in last over the top of the foam. This drink does not get stirred.

Mocha (*Moe-kah*) Chocolate syrup, espresso and steamed milk topped

with whipped cream. Mochas do not have foam.

Breve (*Brev-ay*) Espresso and steamed half and half, topped with foam.

Cappuccino (*Cap-ab-chee-no*) Espresso, steamed milk and lots of foam.

Dry: Espresso and foam, no milk.

Wet: Espresso, equal parts steamed milk and foam.

Americano (*Ameri-cab-no*) Espresso and hot water.

Espresso (*Es-press-o*) One straight shot of espresso only. Also called a solo.

Doppio (*Doe-pea-o*) Two straight shots of espresso only.

Espresso Con Panna (*Es-press-o cone paw-na*) Espresso with a dollop of whipped cream on top.



"We know our coffee! Let us make an espresso drink for you!" Plain Hardware baristas—Teresa Gonder, Joylyn Marcellus, Caren Karnofski, Gwen Whitten and Patty Drinnin

Espresso Macchiato (*Es-press-o Mock-e-ab-toe*) Espresso with a dollop of foam on top.

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Home & Garden

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